

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 154

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the staff and employees of WCTE-TV, Upper Cumberland Public Television.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize the hardworking, dedicated, and innovative personnel who operate the electronic media outlets which are so important in keeping our populace informed, entertained, and in contact with the world; and

WHEREAS, WCTE-TV, Upper Cumberland Public Television, is certainly one such vital station which has enriched the lives of local citizens and has contributed significantly to the cultural fabric of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, despite being one of the smallest Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations in the country, WCTE produces over 250 hours of entertaining and enlightening local programming each year; and

WHEREAS, a pioneer in the industry, WCTE was the first station to televise a Division 2 high school football championship game during the 2009 TSSAA Blue Cross Bowl and, in 2010, it tirelessly advocated on behalf of all Tennessee PBS stations for a multi-year partnership with the TSSAA Network and PlayON! Sports, which will allow the broadcast of championship sporting events throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the first station to utilize the new statewide interconnected PBS system, WCTE thrilled local students with a live video-conference from the International Space Station with Tennessee Technological University (TTU) alumnus and astronaut Barry Wilmore; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, WCTE has stood as a model corporate citizen and community partner, always seeking to promote the common good and enhance the civic lives of the Upper Cumberland's citizenry; and

WHEREAS, WCTE supplies educational outreach services to underserved communities throughout the fourteen-county Upper Cumberland region, sponsors the free family event "Stations of Imagination" during Cookeville's Fall Fun Fest, hosts and televises the Upper Cumberland Academic Bowl for area high school students, broadcasts TTU sporting events, hosts and broadcasts the Cookeville Christmas parade, produces eight nights of the Putnam County Fair, and provides workshops on women's health in conjunction with the Komen Foundation; and

WHEREAS, it is using its Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) grant, one of only thirteen given, to produce the *Live Green and Prosper Initiative* and educate the public about local agriculture and its impact on our economy and public health; and

WHEREAS, because of its proven dedication to excellence in education, WCTE was one of only eight PBS stations in the country chosen by the CPB to pilot its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, WCTE won a regional Emmy award for *Crank: Darkness on the Edge of Town* and garnered national acclaim for several dearly loved programs, including *The Smithville Fiddler's Jamboree*, *Tuba U: Basso Profundo*, *Jammin' at Hippie Jack's*, *Tree Safari: A Sculptural Journey*, and *Tree Safari: The Koa Connection*; and

WHEREAS, the personnel at WCTE epitomize the spirit of volunteerism and dedication to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize the staff and employees of WCTE-TV, Upper Cumberland Public Television for providing outstanding service to their viewing audience, commend their willingness to provide high-quality educational and entertaining programming, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.